



MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Advocating for hospitals and the patients they serve.

TO: Members of the House Health Policy Committee

FROM: Amy Barkholz, Senior Director, Advocacy

DATE: March 22, 2007

SUBJECT: HB 4207 – Nurse Licensure
MHA Position: **SUPPORT**

The Michigan Health & Hospital Association supports HB 4207, sponsored by Rep. Hopgood, to allow the Michigan Board of Nursing greater efficiency in licensing nurses that are graduates of educational programs outside of the United States.

Current law requires foreign-trained nurses to go through a process that includes a test called “The Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools” exam or “CGFNS” exam. This test is administered out of state and involves a lengthy and expensive process. **The nursing faculty and educators that we have spoken with unanimously agree that this test is unnecessary and duplicative of other licensure and education verification requirements currently required by the state.**

While HB 4207 would no longer require foreign-trained nurses to take the CGFNS test, the law still requires the Board of Nursing to approve and verify the equivalency and quality of the education of each nurse trained outside the U.S. In addition, foreign-educated nurses must demonstrate English language proficiency, pass the National Council Licensure Examination, and undergo licensure verification and background checks like all nurse applicants in Michigan.

The MHA believes this legislation is appropriate and will help Michigan attract highly trained and qualified nurses in this era of severe health care workforce shortages. **In addition to this measure, the MHA continues to work with universities, community colleges, law makers, and others to create more educational opportunities in Michigan for individuals interested in entering the nursing profession.**

Please contact Amy Barkholz (abarkholz@mha.org) at (517) 703-8616 at the MHA if you have further questions on this issue.

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